the people of this place a charter of liberty practically creating a free commune, the people of which were freed from military service by land and sea, given the right of free market, free cutting of timber, the right of chase, and of grinding their corn freely. In 045 the town with its vested privileges was granted to the bishop, who thus became a kind of constitutional ruler.

So far we have been treating of the greater centres of urban life—the *cimtates*—and it is of vital importance to contrast these with the smaller centres—the *castra* or *oppida.* These were, and are, the great feature of rural life in South Italy, a land where little of the village and still less of the farm-life of the north was known, where the corn-fields, the olive-gardens and vineyards were tended by peasants who went out to their labour in the morning but dwelt in towns of some thousands of inhabitants. The small *castrum* or *oppidum* thus concentrating the rural class was able to offer a bold front to king, bishop, and lord, and indeed these petty communities, so widely spread and numerous, guaranteed to the mass of the cultivators and small tenants a freedom and a control over the produce of their toil superior to that

enjoyed by the peasant in most mediaeval countries.

The wealthier cultivators or tenants immediately under the lord or holder of noble land fall into two classes, those who own land "without service" and those who hold land "with service."

The former were still numerous after the conquest;